



Connecticut Naturopathic Physicians Association

November 30, 2013

Ms. Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
P.O. Box 1543
Hartford, CT 06144

RE: Connecticut State Innovation Model

Dear Ms. Veltri:

The Connecticut Naturopathic Physicians Association (CNPA) would like to submit comments to you on the draft plan for the State Innovation Model. We appreciate having this opportunity to do so and look forward to working with you to enhance the quality and scope of healthcare services to consumers in Connecticut.

A 2009 study by the University of Connecticut reviewed the need for primary care practitioners in the state in future years. They included Naturopathic Physicians in this category since our profession currently can undertake many of the treatments a patients needs at this initial entry. As such, CNPA is very pleased to see the model's focus on enhancing primary care in Connecticut.

We understand the focus of this innovation model: 1) transforming the practice of primary care so that the full needs of patients can be addressed; 2) improving the linkages between community providers and entities, and 3) empowering consumers. CNPA believes these are laudable goals. We further understand the goals will be met with providing measures for increased transparency in costs, a move to value-based payments in lieu of fee-for-service, implementing an all-payor claims data base and information technology standards, as well as several strategies to address the changing demand of the healthcare workforce.

Our association would request that as the initiative moves forward, that you create an advisory panel of medical providers who would advise you on the various implementations of the model. We see the healthcare system in operation every day as we treat and interact with our patients, our colleagues, managed care plans and government. We believe medical providers could add a good deal of value to the development of this new model. A formalized advisory role would be

warranted. If you would see merit in this idea, the Connecticut Naturopathic Physicians Association would like to have a representative on the group.

The CNPA stands ready to assist you with the development and implementation of the Innovation Model. We are the primary portal of entry to the healthcare system for many consumers and believe we can help make this new initiative a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Liva", followed by a large, stylized capital "D" that is part of the signature.

Rick Liva
Legislative Chair